

Mission Report

Mission title (if any):	Participation to the VIth International Congress of Ethnobotany, 21-26 August 2005 – Istanbul, Turkey
Programme/Mandate concerned:	ESAPP
Geographical region / Location of mission	Istanbul, Turkey

Mission approved by programme coordinator (date, name):	13.07.05, Sarah-Lan Mathez-Stiefel
Mission approved by CDE Section head (date, name):	01.08.05, Urs Wiesmann
Mission Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aug. 21st to Aug. 26th, 2005 - Aug. 20th to Aug. 29th, 2005
Person(s) on mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sarah-Lan Mathez-Stiefel (CDE) - Madyo Couto (Impacto, Maputo – Mozambique)
Mission background	Presentation of the results of ESAPP project E501 to the VIth International Congress of Ethnobotany: “Linking Applied Ethnobotany to Social Learning: A Participatory Tool for the Promotion of Indigenous Plants in Matutuine, Southern Mozambique”
Mission TORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oral presentation (S-L Mathez); - presentation of ethnobotany material from Mozambique (M.Couto); - representation for ESAPP and CDE (S-L. Mathez)
Mission budget	Budget North: 4'075.- Budget South: 2'400.- Budget Total: 6'475.-
Mission accounting	<u>E002 Real expenses:</u> North: 4'075.- South: 2'340.- Total: 6'415.-

<i>Mission report approved by programme coordinator (d, n):</i>	02.09.05, Sarah-Lan Mathez-Stiefel
<i>Mission report approved by CDE Section head (d, n):</i>	07.09.05, Urs Wiesmann
<i>Mission report compiled by:</i>	Sarah-Lan Mathez-Stiefel
<i>Copies to:</i>	-
<i>This report is relevant for cde knowledge management:</i>	Yes

Mission result (Summary)	<p>The presentation focused on a tool elaborated to identify indigenous plants with a potential for commercialisation. The tool combines methods from applied ethnobotany with participatory research in a social learning process involving internal and external actors. It is based on an adaptation of the ALS approach (namely the basic module on natural resource management), combined with data collection.</p> <p>The presentation has raised a lot of interest within the audience. Besides the diversity of the congress' participants (scientists from all around the world and from different disciplines working in the field of ethnobotany), most of them are oriented towards academic research and few are familiar with transdisciplinary approaches. During the discussion, the importance of assessing the impacts (both positives and negatives) of such a project was highlighted. The problem of the follow-up and the need to integrate such actions into long-term development projects was also raised: the planned follow-up activities had not been carried out due to change of priorities of the main partner (Helvetas). In this context, the answer to the question of what were eventually the benefits for the local stakeholders lies mainly in the learning process itself: to reach a common understanding ecological processes, to learn to identify problems and solutions related to sustainability issues, and to identify local potentials for development (namely the high potential of some plant species). Some concrete methodological aspects used to promote mutual learning among very diverse actors were also discussed.</p> <p>Among other interesting contacts, the Congress was also an opportunity to meet with a researcher doing participatory and development-oriented research in the field of ethnobotany in Mexico (Dr. Paul Hersch-Martínez, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Curenavaca).</p>
Supporting documents (appendices)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Abstract - Power Point Presentation - Budget - Accountancy report